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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An audio-user-interfacing method for apparatus adapted to represent in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate, the apparatus being arranged to treat the audio field as divided into multiple segments independently of the positions of the sound sources in the audio field; the method comprising the apparatus steps of:

(a) specifying a division of the audio field into multiple segments; and

(ab) receiving in response to a predetermined user input indicative of at least one said segments without constraining the user input to be indicative of a segment corresponding to the current facing direction of the user,

(b) interpreting said user input to identify said at least one segment indicated thereby; and

(c) selectively changing the audibility of the synthesised synthesized sound sources in said at least one segment identified in (b).

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~step (bc)~~ involves includes changing the audibility of the synthesised synthesized sound sources in said at least one segment from un-muted to at least partially muted.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from un-muted to at least partially muted leaves the audibility of sound sources in the other segments unchanged.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from un-muted to an at least partially

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muted causes any previously at-least-partially muted sound sources in other segments to become un-muted.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the audibility of sound sources that have been at least partially muted as a result of said predetermined input, automatically returns to un-muted after a predetermined period.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~step (bc)~~ ~~involves~~ includes changing the audibility of the ~~synthesised~~ synthesized sound sources in said at least one segment from at least partially muted to un-muted.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from at least partially muted to un-muted leaves the audibility of sound sources in the other segments unchanged.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from at least partially muted to un-muted causes any previously un-muted sound sources in other segments to become at least partially muted.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the audibility of sound sources that have been un-muted as a result of said predetermined input, automatically returns to at least partially muted after a predetermined period.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus treats the audio field ~~as is not~~ is ~~notionally~~ divided in azimuth and/or elevation to form said segments.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the segments are specified relative to a current facing direction of ~~facing of~~ the user with the latter user being assumed to be in a reference position.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the segments are specified relative to a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of audio output devices used to ~~synthesise~~ synthesize said sound sources.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the segments are specified relative to an audio field reference that can be rotated relative to a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of audio output devices used to synthesise said sound sources.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the division of the audio field into specification of the segments is set by user input specified to the apparatus by input from the user.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the division of the audio field into segments is set by ~~have~~ a default specification.

16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sound sources are arranged in groups with each group being associated with a respective audio-field reference relative to which the sound sources of the group are positioned, independently moving the audio-field references ~~being independently movable~~ relative to a presentation reference which is determined by a mounting configuration of audio output devices used to synthesise said sound sources; the change in audibility of sound sources of a segment caused by said predetermined user input being applied to sound sources of all said groups.

17. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sound sources are arranged in groups with each group being associated with a respective audio-field reference relative to which the sound sources of the group are positioned, the audio-field references being independently movable relative to a presentation reference which is determined by a mounting configuration of audio output devices used to synthesise said sound sources; the change in audibility of sound sources of a segment performed in (c)

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caused by said predetermined user input being applied to sound sources of a selected one or more of said groups.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the audibility of sound sources in multiple segments is changed by the same said user input.

19. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the audio field is ~~stabilised~~ stabilized relative to one of:

- a user's head;
- a user's body;
- a vehicle in which the user is travelling;
- the world;

~~this stabilisation~~ the audio field stabilization taking account of whether audio output devices used to ~~synthesise~~ synthesize the sound sources are world, vehicle, body or head mounted, and, as appropriate, rotation of the user's head or body, or turning of the vehicle.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the said items represented by the sound sources are audio labels for services, the method further involving selecting a service by selecting the corresponding audio-label sound source.

21. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An Apparatus for providing an audio user interface in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate, the apparatus comprising:

- storage means for storing segmentation data specifying a division of the audio field into multiple segments independently of the positions of the sound sources in the audio field;
- input means for receiving a predetermined user input indicative of at least one said segments without constraining the user input to be indicative of a segment corresponding to the current facing direction of the user, the indication of a

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segment by said user input being an indication that for which the audibility of the  
sound sources encompassed by the segment thereby is to be changed;

— rendering-position determining means for determining, for each said sound source, an associated rendering position at which the sound source is to be synthesized to sound in the audio field;

— audibility-determining means for determining the audibility of each sound source based on its rendering position, the segmentation data, and said user input; and

— rendering means, including audio output devices, for generating an audio field in which said sound sources are synthesized at their associated rendering positions and with audibility as determined by said audibility determining means.

22. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the audibility-determining means is arranged to be responsive to said predetermined user input to change the audibility of the ~~synthesised~~ synthesized sound sources in said at least one segment from un-muted to at least partially muted.

23. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the audibility-determining means, in changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from un-muted to an at least partially muted, is further operative to set the audibility of any previously at-least-partially muted sound sources in other segments to un-muted.

24. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the audibility-determining means is further operative to automatically return the audibility of sound sources that have been at least partially muted as a result of said predetermined input, to un-muted after a predetermined period.

25. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the audibility-determining means is arranged to be responsive to said predetermined user input to change the audibility of the ~~synthesised~~ synthesized sound sources in said at least one segment from at least partially muted to un-muted.

26. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the audibility-determining means, in changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from at least partially muted to un-muted, is further operative to set the audibility of any previously un-muted sound sources in other segments to at-least-partially muted.

27. (Currently amended) (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the audibility-determining means is further operative to automatically return the audibility of sound sources that have been un-muted as a result of said predetermined input, to at least partially muted after a predetermined period.

28. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the storage means is arranged for causing the segmentation data divides to divide the audio field into segments specified relative to a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of the audio output devices, the rendering-position determining means being operative to determine the rendering positions of the sound sources relative to said presentation reference whereby the audibility-determining means can directly determine the segment location of a sound source by comparing the rendering position of the sound source with the segmentation data..

29. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the audio output devices are ~~intended~~ arranged for mounting off the user's head and the apparatus further comprises a head tracking arrangement for determining the angular offset between the user's current direction of facing and a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of audio output devices; storage means is arranged for causing the segmentation data dividing- to divide the audio field into segments relative to a current facing direction ~~of facing~~ of the user and the rendering-position determining means being operative to determine the rendering positions of the sound sources relative to said presentation reference; the audibility-determining means being operative to use said angular offset to relate the segmentation

data to the presentation reference whereby to enable the segment location of a sound source to be determined.

30. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the storage means is arranged for causing the segmentation data divides to divide the audio field into segments specified relative to an audio field reference, the apparatus further comprising offset means for controlling an offset between the audio field reference and a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of the audio output devices; the rendering-position determining means being operative to determine the rendering positions of the sound sources relative to said presentation reference; and the offset means being operative to provide a measure of said offset to the audibility-determining means with the latter being arranged to use ~~this~~ the measure of said offset to relate the segmentation data to the presentation reference whereby to enable the segment location of a sound source to be determined.

31. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 21, including user-operable input means for modifying said ~~specification~~ segmentation data.

32. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein at least some of the said items represented by the sound sources are audio labels for services, the apparatus including a selection arrangement for selecting a service by selecting the corresponding audio-label sound source.

33. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for providing an audio user interface in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate, the apparatus comprising:

- a data store arranged to store segmentation data specifying a division of the audio field into multiple segments independently of the positions of the sound sources in the audio field;
- an input arrangement operative to receive a predetermined user

input indicative of at least one said segments without constraining this input to be indicative of a segment corresponding to the current facing direction of the user, an indication of a segment by said user input being an indication that for which the audibility of the sound sources encompassed by the segment thereby is to be changed;

- a rendering-position determining arrangement operative to determine, for each said sound source, an associated rendering position at which the sound source is to be synthesized to sound in the audio field;
- an audibility-determining arrangement operative to determine the audibility of each sound source based on its rendering position, the segmentation data, and said user input; and
- a rendering subsystem, including audio output devices, arranged to generate an audio field in which said sound sources are synthesized at their associated rendering positions and with audibility as determined by said audibility determining arrangement.

34. (Currently amended) Apparatus An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the audibility-determining arrangement is arranged to be responsive to said predetermined user input to change the audibility of the ~~synthesised~~ synthesized sound sources in said at least one segment from un-muted to at least partially muted.

35. (Currently amended) Apparatus An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the audibility-determining arrangement, in changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from un-muted to an at least partially muted, is further operative to set the audibility of any previously at-least-partially muted sound sources in other segments to un-muted.

36. (Currently amended) Apparatus An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the audibility-determining arrangement is arranged to be further operative to automatically return the audibility of sound sources that have been at least partially muted as a result of said predetermined input, to un-muted after a predetermined period.



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37. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the audibility-determining arrangement is responsive to said predetermined user input to change the audibility of the ~~synthesised~~ synthesized sound sources in said at least one segment from at least partially muted to un-muted.

38. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the audibility-determining arrangement, in changing the audibility of the sound sources in a said segment from at least partially muted to un-muted, is further operative to set the audibility of any previously un-muted sound sources in other segments to at-least-partially muted.

39. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the audibility-determining arrangement is further operative to automatically return the audibility of sound sources that have been un-muted as a result of said predetermined input, to at least partially muted after a predetermined period.

40. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the data storage is arranged to cause the segmentation data ~~divides- to divide~~ the audio field into segments specified relative to a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of the audio output devices, the rendering-position determining arrangement being operative to determine the rendering positions of the sound sources relative to said presentation reference whereby the audibility-determining arrangement can directly determine the segment location of a sound source by comparing the rendering position of the sound source with the segmentation data..

41. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the audio output devices are ~~intended-~~ arranged for mounting off the user's head and the apparatus further comprises a head tracking arrangement for determining the angular offset between the user's current direction of facing and a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of audio output devices; the data storage is arranged to cause the segmentation data ~~dividing to divide~~ the audio field into segments relative to a current facing ~~direction of facing~~ of the user and the rendering-

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position determining arrangement being operative to determine the rendering positions of the sound sources relative to said presentation reference; the audibility-determining arrangement being operative to use said angular offset to relate the segmentation data to the presentation reference whereby to enable the segment location of a sound source to be determined.

42. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the data storage is arranged to cause the segmentation data divides- to divide the audio field into segments specified relative to an audio field reference, the apparatus further comprising a control arrangement for controlling an offset between the audio field reference and a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of the audio output devices; the rendering-position determining arrangement being operative to determine the rendering positions of the sound sources relative to said presentation reference; and the control arrangement being operative to provide a measure of said offset to the audibility-determining arrangement with the latter being arranged to use ~~this~~ the offset measure to relate the segmentation data to the presentation reference whereby to enable the segment location of a sound source to be determined.

43. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 33, including user-operable input device for modifying said ~~specification-segmentation~~ data.

44. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein at least some of the said items represented by the sound sources are audio labels for services, the apparatus including a selection arrangement for selecting a service by selecting the corresponding audio-label sound source.

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